



PONTIFICIUM CONSILIUM
DE CULTURA

Pontifical Council of Culture

Address of his Most Reverend Eminence
Paul Cardinal Poupard
to the Leaders of Planktos
The Vatican
July 5th 2007

As President of the Pontifical Council of Culture; I am honored to receive this donation from the leaders of Planktos-KlimaFa. This donation means an entire section of a national park in central Europe will be reforested. In this way, the Vatican will do its small part in contributing to the elimination of polluting emissions from CO2 which is threatening the survival of this planet.

As the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, had recently stated, the international community needs to respect and encourage a “Green Culture,” characterized by ethical values. The Book of Genesis tells us of a beginning in which God placed man as guardian over the earth to make it fruitful. When man forgets that he is a faithful servant of this earth, it becomes a desert that threatens the survival of all creation. The earth itself turns against man.

Environmental protection is not, therefore, a political issue—it’s not enough to have a simple commitment from a few people. Instead, it necessary, as it is underlined by His Holiness, to have the dawn of a new culture, of new attitudes and of a new mode of living that makes man aware of his place as a caretaker of the earth.

The Pontifical Council of Culture pledges its complete collaboration and deeply thanks those responsible at Planktos-KlimaFa for this significant donation.